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AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

MAJOR SAMUEL GREGG.

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1806.

Copy of Manuscript found among the Papers of Washington P. Gregg, of Boston, Mass., by Miss Lucinda J. Gregg—endorsed: "Samuel Gregg, of Peterborough, N. H. Brief account by him of his family, written in 1805-1806, when he was 66-67 years of age. He was my Grandfather and owing to his age and defective memory, he has made several mistakes in the within which is very difficult for me to correct.

W. P. Gregg."

Gregg Genealogical Co.
August 20, 1903.

A GENEALOGY OF MY ANCESTORS.

My Grandfather, James Gregg, was a native of Ayrshire, Scotland, emigrated about the year 1690; lived in the north of Ireland in County of Derry, in the Parish Muaskee. His forefathers came from Scotland, from a place called Aberdeen. He was a bleacher of linen cloth. He married a Scotch woman. Her name was Janet Cargill. She was from Illa, Scotland. They had four sons and one daughter born to them in Ireland. Their eldest son's name, William; 2nd, John; 3rd, Samuel; 4th, Thomas. Their daughter's name, Elizabeth. Their youngest son was about ten years old and my Grandfather was about forty when the family left Ireland.

They came to America in the year 1718 and landed at Boston with several other passengers, that came in other ships. The ship that they came in as passengers went down East and spent the winter at Casco, which is now called Portland. They came back the next spring to Newbury and a number of them that came over from Ireland that year, joined together and got a township granted them, lying partly west from Newbury about thirty miles, which they called Nutfield. They moved into it in the year 1719. My Grandfather, James Gregg, was one of the proprietors of the Town and helped to lay it out into lots. And he built the first Grist Mill in the town, and was Captain of the first company of the Militia. The town granted him 300 acres of land, which was some compensation for his trouble.

A few years later, my mother's father came over from Ireland. His name was Hugh Rankin. He was a native of Ireland. He was seventeen years old when he was in Londonderry, besieged by the Papists ninety-six days in the year 1689. After that he was married to a woman whose name was Dunlap. They lived in a town called Don-given in the north of Ireland. I cannot tell what county. He had eight daughters that grew up and not any son. He brought them all to America and brought them to Londonderry, for that was the name of the town after they had got their charter. My Grandmother

Rankin died in Ireland. The names of their daughters are as follows: 1st, Mary, 2nd, Martha; 3rd, Jane; 4th, Esther; 5th, Janet; 6th, Agnes; 7th, Anne; 8th, Dinah.

I shall turn over to my Grandfather Gregg's family. My Grandfather, James Gregg settled all his sons in Londonderry, N. H. His oldest son, William, married to my Grandfather Rankin's fifth daughter, Jinnet Rankin. They had two sons and five daughters. His oldest son's name was James; his second son, Hugh. His eldest daughter's name was Mary; 2nd, Jinnet; 3rd, Agnes; 4th, Fanny; and 5th, Naomi. My father, who was my Grandfather Gregg's second son, John, married my Grandfather Rankin's sixth daughter. Her name was Agnes. They had eight sons and two daughters. The eldest sons, James and his twin mate, Hugh, who died, aged twenty-one; 3rd, John; 4th, William; 5th, George; 6th, Samuel; 7th, Joseph; 8th, Benjamin. Their eldest daughter's name was Elizabeth; 2nd, Jinnet.

My Grandfather Gregg's 3rd son whose name was Samuel, married Mary Moore. They had four sons and four daughters, that grewed up. The name of their oldest was James; 2nd, John; 3rd, Samuel; 4th, David. Their oldest daughter's name was Margaret; 2nd, Elizabeth; 3rd, Mary; 4th, Agnes.

My Grandfather Gregg's fourth son was Thomas. He married Agnes Ferguson. They had six children grow up. They went off to the Cohos country a number of years ago and my uncle Thomas died there. My Grandfather Gregg's daughter married to James Moore. They had five sons and four daughters. The name of their oldest was James; 2nd, John; 3rd, William; 4th, Hugh; 5th, Robert. Their oldest daughter named Jinnet; 2nd, Elizabeth; 3rd, Sarah; 4th, Mary. My Grandfather Rankin's oldest daughter's name was Mary, she was married to Allan Anderson. They had no children. His second daughter whose name was Martha married James Doak. They had three sons and three daughters. Their oldest son's name was Robert; 2nd, John; 3rd, James; their oldest daughter's name was Margaret; 2nd, Martha; 3rd, Esther. His third daughter whose name was Jane, was married to John Crombie. They had three sons and five daughters. Their oldest son was Hugh; 2nd, John; 3rd, James; Their oldest daughter was Elizabeth; 2nd, Jinnet; 3rd, Agnes; 4th, Mary; 5th, Anne. His fourth daughter married Daniel Clyde. They had five sons and three daughters. The name of his oldest son, Joseph; 2nd, Hugh; 3rd, John; 4th, Samuel; 5th, Daniel. Their oldest daughter's name was Anne; 2nd, Mary; 3rd, Agnes. His seventh daughter

ter (nothing said of 5th and 6th, Mr. William and John Gregg.) Anne married James Cochran, that was taken with the Indians in the year 1725. They had four sons and five daughters. Their oldest son's name was James; 2nd, John; 3rd, William; 4th, Jonathan. Their oldest daughter's name was Hannah; 2nd, Liley; 3rd, Dinah; 4th, Mary; 5th, Anne. His eighth daughter Dinah married to William Rogers. They went to the Eastward and settled at a town called Roucked—at the mouth of the Canebeck river—since called Georgetown. They had five sons and three daughters. The oldest son's name was George; 2nd, Thomas; 3rd, Hugh; 4th, John; 5th, William. Oldest daughter's name was Jinnet; 2nd, Margaret; 3rd, Anne.

I shall turn to my Father's family. My father was sixteen years old when he came to America. My mother was Agnes Rankin. They had eight sons and two daughters. My oldest brother James married to Mary McCurdy. They had five sons and three daughters. Their oldest son's name was John; 2nd, Joseph; 3rd, James; 4th, Jonathan; 5th, Benjamin. Their oldest daughter's name was Elizabeth; 2nd, Hannah; 3rd, Mary. My brother James went off from Londonderry in the year 1790 to York State. Settled in a town called Snosbach, since called Litchfield, about 100 miles west of Albany, and about miles south of the Mohawk River. Since that he moved about thirty miles farther to the westward, and settled in a town called Augusta, where he settled all his sons but one. His oldest, John, was Captain of a Company of Militia, and his son Joseph settled in a town called Ackworth, N. H. State. Was Captain of a Company in that town. My brother Hugh who was a twin with my brother James, lost his sight when he was about thirteen years of age, and died at the age of 21. So much for my oldest brothers.

My brother John was my father's third son. He married to Elizabeth Gregg. She was the daughter of my uncle Samuel Gregg. They moved to Peterborough in the year 1759. They had three sons and three daughters. Their oldest son's name Benjamin; 2nd, Ebenezer; 3rd, William. Their oldest daughter's name was Agnes; 2nd, Mary; 3rd, Jinnet. Then his wife died and he married again to widow Sturt. Her maiden name was Elizabeth White, daughter of Patrick White. Three sons and three daughters. Their oldest son's name John; 2nd, James; (no No. 3.) Their oldest daughter's name was Betty; 2nd, Jane; 3rd, Fanny. My brother John died in the year 1789. He was Lieutenant in the Militia.

My brother William, who was my father's fourth son married Bar-

bara Aiken. They had two sons and four daughters. The name of the oldest son Ebenezer; 2nd, William. His oldest daughter's name was Agnes; 2nd, Jane; 3rd, Rosanna; 4th, Betsey. His wife died and he married again to Agnes McCluer. She was a native of Ireland. She had no children. She died. He married again Widow Abbot. Her maiden name was Holt. They had children. He was a Captain of Militia and when the American war began went at the Alarm to Lexington with his Company, stayed a tour and was relieved by Captain Reid. Then he returned home. After that there was a call for men to York State to stop the progress of the enemy. He went as a Major and took a tour at White Plains and then returned home. After that there was a call for men to stop Genrl. Burgoyne's army, who was invading our Western Territories. He went as Colonel of the Militia, and a few days before the battle at Bennington, he was sent out to meet a part of Burgoyne's army who were coming right on to Bennington. He met them several miles beyond Bennington, and finding their force far superior to his, he was obliged to retreat. His name was recorded in the history of the American War. His oldest son, Ebenezer was a captain of a company of the Militia in Londonderry, and his second son is a Preacher of the Gospel.

N. B. My brother William lives in Londonderry.

My sister Elizabeth was my father's oldest daughter. She was next in age to my brother William. She married to John Willison of Blenford, in Mass. She went off with him in the year 1761. They had three sons and three daughters. Their oldest son was John; 2nd, Andrew; 3rd, George. Their oldest daughter's name was Polly; 2nd, Agnes; 3rd, Betsey. My brother Willison died several years ago. My sister Willison died 1801.

My brother George was my father's fifth son. He married to Sarah Wason. They had not any children. They took my brother John's second son, whose name was Ebenezer, when he was a child and brought him up and made him their heir. They live in Londonderry.

My sister Jinnet, my father's second daughter, she married William Miltimore. They had four sons and three daughters that grew up. The name of his oldest son, Daniel; 2nd, John; 3rd, William; 4th, James. (No mention of daughter's names.) They lived in Londonderry in the South Range, so called. My brother Miltimore's son William is a preacher of the Gospel somewhere in the Eastern Country.

N. B. My brother Miltimore was a Tailor by trade.

I was my father's sixth son. My mother died when I was about five years old. My father had a large family and a good many of us quite small. He was obliged to hire a housekeeper a good many years before my sisters grew up. He governed the family with a very steady hand. He did not indulge too much neither was he too severe. He gave us a chance of schooling, equal to our neighbors, which was poor enough, in those days. My brothers that were older than I, my father gave them land and they began to work for themselves. I was obliged to work very hard at home with my father, till I was almost eighteen years of age. Then it was in the time of the French War. There was great demand for men for to go into the War for the fight the French who were invading our Territories. There was a great many recruiting officers, some 'listing soldiers for the Provincial Service and some for the Batoe Service, and some for the Rengen (Ranging) Service. As my mind at that time led me to go into the Army, I listed with Capt. James Rogers who was recruiting men for the Rengen Service for one year. I marched off with him for Albany the 10th of March, the year 1758. We marched on and got about 10 miles beyond Worcester, and then we got orders to return to Boston to go to Cape Breton, which was far against my will, for my mind was to go to the Westward. We got to Boston very much fatigued and then we were sent on to Cape William. There was the place of rendezvous for the Rengers. There were four Companies of Rangers which met there, viz.: Capt. McCordes; Capt. Rogers; Capt. Stark and Capt. Broncas. We stayed there about a fortnight and then went aboard of vessels and sailed to Halifax.

This was in the month of April and we stayed there to about the first of June. By this time the Grand Fleet was made up, which consisted of about 360 Sail of which 21 were ships of the line. Sometime about the 1st of June the whole fleet sailed from Halifax for Cape Breton. They arrived in Caberrus Bay in plain sight of the French intrenchment. The 8th day early in the morning, we were put in boats and pushed to the shore and stormed their trenches and drove the French into the City, which was about three miles. Then retreated back toward the Bay and camped that night. Then the siege began which lasted 46 days. The City surrendered with all its contents to the British arms. Sometime in the month of August a party of men was sent to the Island of St. Johns. About 400 commanded by Capt. Roler. There was half of Capt. Roger's Company an one-half of Capt. Stark's. I went with Capt. Rogers to St. John's Island and was there about three months and helped to build a Fort

and then returned to Cape Breton, in the month of November and there was our headquarters for that winter. In the month of March Lieutenant Wm. Duffee was sent out with a party of men to see if there were any French on the back side of the Island of Cape Breton. He took with him about 40 men. I went with him. We took with us 21 days provision. We went most part of the way upon snow shoes. We took a number of French prisoners and returned in fifteen days. When the Spring opened the British fleet met in Cape Breton harbor and sailed for Quebec about the 4th of June under the command of Admiral Sandos and Genrl. Wolfe. My time was out that I had enlisted for—I insisted on my discharge and got it and got a passage for Boston. The 8th day of June we sailed from Cape Breton and in nine days we arrived in Boston. This was in 1759.

I came home to Londonderry to my father's and worked with him that summer. The next winter I went to my brother James to learn to make foot wheels, for he was a Wheel Maker. The next Spring I set up Wheel making at my father's and worked about one year and found wheel making was no great object. I thought I must have a farm. My two youngest brothers still lived with my father—viz.: Joseph and Benjamin. I saw that my father's mind was to have them live at home. I knew that I must turn out somewhere. My father told me that he had lands in Peterborough lying close by my brother John's and that he would give me a lot if I would go there and live. I told him I would go and see it. Accordingly I did, and after I had seen his lands in Peterborough, I told him that if he would give me such a lot that I would go to work on it. In the year 1762 I worked upon my land all Summer. In the Fall of the year, I put up a frame of a house, and returned to my father's in Londonderry in the winter. In the March following I was married to Agnes Smiley. She was a daughter of John Smiley of Haverhill and I moved her in June, to Peterborough in the year 1763. I got my house boarded and my chimneys up and got into it in the month of July and began housekeeping. We had a dull prospect. I had but little land cleared and no roads, and four or five miles from either Grist Mill or Saw Mill. No minister and few neighbors. We were but young and it was very discouraging to us, it being a new town and we were not used to the woods.

Notwithstanding the many difficulties that appeared before us, we kept up good courage in hopes for better times. In the course of about one year after we were married, my wife brought me a son and seeing that we had addition to our family, then we began to work

on our land for to get support for ourselves and offspring, as being at a great distance from our relatives, we did not depend on any assistance from any of them. We were obliged to work very hard. We got a barn up the year after we came to Peterborough. I got land cleared and got some cows and oxen and a horse and in a few years, through the blessing of God we had a living equal to the rest of our neighbors. Before the War broke out, I was appointed a Sergeant of a Company of the Militia in Peterborough. I served in that equal to any Sergeant in any Company, although I was the youngest Sergeant in the Company. A few years after a good many of the old officers resigned their commissions and there was choice of new officers in our Company. I was chosen Second Lieutenant of the Company. I served in that station a few years, then the war broke out between Britain and America. I went with the Company at the alarm to Lexington, more as a leader than a Commander, for I looked on my commission as quite dead. I stayed with the Company about eight or ten days and then returned home. By this time we had four sons and one daughter living. I worked on my farm and did not go into the army, although I had a great inclination to go into the army, but happened not to. A few years after I was chosen 1st Lieut. of a Company. After the war broke out, this State began to regulate the Militia and divide the State into regiments, and I was honored with a Major's Commission in the 23rd Regiment, commanded by Francis Blood, Colonel. I officiated in that station at one muster, which was at Temple and reviewed by Genrl. Bates and Genrl. Lovell, who was our Brigade General, and a few years after I resigned my commission and the regiment was filled up with new field officers. This ended my Military Matters, after serving as an officer of one kind or another for nigh twenty years.

During the time of the American War with Great Britain, I did not go into the war, but I assisted in carrying on the war, equal to any in town according to my interest—I stayed at home with my family. The war between America and Great Britain commenced on April 19th, 1775, and lasted to the year 1782. Then a Peace was made between Britain and America. And about the year 1785 our youngest daughter was born. Then we had four sons and four daughters, and near about this time our oldest son was married to Rachel Stuart. I gave him a lot of land about one mile from where I live. They had three children; two sons and a daughter. Their oldest son's name was John; he died when he was about two years old. Their second son's name was Hugh. He was born Dec. 12th, 1787, and their

daughter Rachel was born Jan. 8th, 1789. His wife died in about three weeks after Rachel was born. Then he married again to Hannah Hardy and they had five children when they left this town. They went off to York State in the year 1800, and settled in a town called Augusta. Hugh and Rachel we took and brought up. Hugh was our second son. He married to Sarah Holmes. They settled in Greenfield. They have had eight children, seven are now living. Our oldest daughter's name is Sarah. She married to Capt. David Steele. He is now a Colonel. She has had seven children. They are all dead but one. Our 3rd daughter's name was Anne. She was married to James Gregg of Londonderry and had three children—two that lived—a boy and a girl. She died in the year 1804. She left the care of her son with his Grandfather Benjamin Gregg and she left the care of her daughter with her sister Polly Gregg. The name of the boy is Franklin; the name of the girl is Lucinda. Our 3rd son was Samuel. Went off to York State when he was about 21 years of age, and stayed there four or five years. He married there to Lucinda Campbell. She lived with him about two years and died.

Then he left York State and settled in Boston. He married to Elizabeth Hopkinson. They have three children; two twin boys and a girl. The names of his boys are Washington, and the other Jefferson. He follows the Chair making business, etc., etc. Daughter's name Elizabeth. Our 4th son's name was George. I settled him at home with me and gave him part of my farm. He built a house and married to Sarah Moore, daughter of Lieut. Wm. Moore of this town. They lived with me two or three years, then sold his part of the farm and bought another farm about one mile from my house and lived there three years, and sold that farm and went and bought in York State and moved off from here in the month of Nov. 1805. They had three children, two boys and one girl. Their oldest son died in this town. He was about five years old. His name was Stephen. The other two they took with them. The boy's name is George. The girl's name was Nancy. Our 3rd daughter's name is Polly. She took great care of her mother in her sickness and has kept my house since her mother died. She remains single as yet. Our 4th daughter's name is Betsey. She was married in Feb., 1806, to Wm. Hutchings of Boston. She went off to Boston to live 6th of May, 1806. Her husband is a Chairmaker. They live in Hanover at Boston. Hugh and Rachel we took and brought up. They were our son John's children that his first wife had to him. Hugh lived with me till he was about 18 years of age. Then I put him to John

Crombie of New Boston, to learn the carpenter trade in April, 1805. And his sister Rachel lived with us until she was about 17 years of age, then she went off to Groton to learn the Tailor's trade with Gilbert Smith. She went off in Feb., 1806.

I have given a small sketch of my family. I shall mention something respecting myself and my wife. We both enjoyed for a long time a considerable good state of health. My wife was very healthy till she had nursed all her children. Then she nursed two grand children which wore her almost out. She began to be very weakly and for about ten years before she died, she failed very fast and became very weakly and was so far gone many times, that her life was many times despaired of. At last she fell into a consumption about two years before she died. It seemed to wear her away very fast, notwithstanding all the doctors we employed or the medicines and directions were to no purpose. She kept growing weaker every day to her last. She died Feb. 2nd, 1803, in the 60th year of her age. We were married in March, 1763. We lived together almost forty years. As for myself, I have enjoyed a tolerable state of health for a long time, till about the year 1799, I was taken with a bad cough and shortness of breath, which settled in the Asthma disorder and has continued with me ever since. But before that in the year 1797 I had a sore begin on one of my hips. I had it opened and it became a running sore, and ran about four years and then dried up. And in about the year 1801, I fell and broke one of my legs and put my ankle out of joint. Old age and infirmities my health is very much impaired. I am scarcely able to keep about, but I have great reason to thank God that he has continued me so long in the land of the living.

I was born in Londonderry, N. H., in April, 1739, and I am now in my 67th year, and I have wrote these few memorandums which I have collected in the year 1806.

SAMUEL GREGG.

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